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Remembering Sharon and Margaux Brown

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As many in the ex-pat community are aware, last January Sharon Brown and her one-year-old daughter, Margaux Brown were killed by an elephant in the Mt. Kenya National Forest. They are survived by husband and father Jeff Brown. Sharon and Jeff's prominence in the community, first as Peace Corps volunteers, and later as teachers at International School of Kenya, "ISK" meant that the shock of this accident was felt widely.

Sharon was the teacher advisor for the organization "Students for the Environment," and was instrumental in advocating for various green initiatives in Kenya. ISK's new "green building" initiative pays tribute to her memory.

Additionally, a memorial fund was established for Sharon and Margaux through ISK. Donations collected by the fund are being used to build a new environmental education center on the ISK campus.

In Sharon and Margaux's memory, ISK is also developing a school garden and nursery, with greenhouses to both support the garden and grow native tree seedlings for local reforestation projects. Once built, the nursery and garden will be irrigated by harvested rainwater. The area

will be a teaching space for all grades, and will produce food for consumption on campus.

You can access the Sharon and Margaux memorial fund at <http://sharonmargauxmemorial.wordpress.com> or by [clicking here](#).

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Memorial Volunteers





Our New Online Appointment System And How to Contact Us

In order to reduce wait time and to streamline services, the ACS unit now requires that you make an appointment to receive services. You can schedule an appointment by clicking on the American Citizen Services tab on our website, and then clicking on schedule an appointment or by [clicking here](#).

For non-emergency enquiries, ACS can be reached by phone at (020) 363-6622 or by E-mail at

Kenya_ACS@state.gov.

If you are an American citizen with an emergency please call:

After-hours emergency:
+254-(0) 20 363 6170

Business hours
emergency:
+254-(0) 20 363 6451

For **Immigrant Visa** information, please [click here](#), or E-mail:

ImmigrationVisaNairobi@state.gov

For **Non-Immigrant Visa** information, please [click here](#), or E-mail:

VisitorVisaNairobi@state.gov

For information regarding **DNA testing procedures**, please contact our DNA specialists at:

NairobiDNA@state.gov

Upcoming Holidays and ACS Office Closures:

The U.S. Embassy will be closed on the following dates:

Administrative Day	26 January (Wednesday)
Consular Section Closed (Training)	27 January (Thursday)
Presidents Day	21 February (Monday)
Administrative Day	23 February (Wednesday)
Good Friday	22 April (Friday)
Easter Monday	25 April (Monday)



What Does the Ambassador Think?



Get short, timely messages from U.S. Ambassador to Kenya, Michael Ranneberger, via Twitter.

Twitter is a rich source of instantly updated information. It's easy to stay updated on an incredibly wide variety of topics. [Click here](#) to join today, or visit <http://twitter.com/signup?follow=USAMB4REFORM>.



U.S. Embassy Nairobi Wants To Be Your Friend



Sign Up here, or visit

[http://www.facebook.com/r.php?](http://www.facebook.com/r.php?fbpage_id=146218063693&r=111&locale=en_US)

[fbpage_id=146218063693&r=111&locale=en_US](http://www.facebook.com/r.php?fbpage_id=146218063693&r=111&locale=en_US)

U.S. Embassy Nairobi is on Facebook



The Security Situation

This is a copy of a Warden Message sent out in December 2010 regarding the ICC Announcement

This is to inform U.S. citizens living in or visiting Kenya that on or about December 15, 2010, the International Criminal Court plans to announce the names of high-ranking Kenyan officials being investigated for involvement in the post-election violence of 2007-08. The U.S. Embassy does not expect the ICC announcement to provoke a violent reaction in Kenya. However, the announcement may increase political tensions and ten-

sion can turn to violence with little or no warning.

U.S. citizens in Kenya are reminded to avoid political demonstrations and public gatherings, and remain vigilant of their personal security at all times. U.S. citizens should exercise particular caution travelling in the Rift Valley, especially in and around Naivasha, Nakuru, and Kericho. The U.S. Embassy encourages U.S. citizens resident in Kenya to be prepared for emergencies of all kinds by stocking up on water, food, batteries, telephone airtime, gasoline and other essentials. U.S. citizens should monitor the local media and the [U.S. Embassy Nairobi's website](#) for infor-

mation on the security situation in Kenya.

U.S. citizens should also regularly monitor the U.S. Department of State's, [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#) where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information can be found. In addition to information on the internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling from outside the United States and Canada, on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

U.S. citizens who live in or travel to Kenya, please take the time to tell us about your trip or stay by enrolling in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#).

If you enroll, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch

with you in an emergency.

You should remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during enrollment or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

Please remember to update your status in the SMART TRAVELER ENROLLMENT PROGRAM under the Citizen Services tab on our website: [Nairobi.usembassy.gov](#) or by [clicking here](#)



Smart
Traveler
Enrollment
Program



Security Tips

- Ensure that your car is in proper working condition at all times.
- Have an emergency plan and make sure that all family members know the plan.
- Stay alert at all times.
- Get to know what looks ‘normal’ both within your neighborhood and around the greater community.
- If something feels “wrong,” it probably is.
- Let a relative, trusted friend, or colleague know about your travel plans and stick to the plan.
- Don’t try to be a hero: comply with would-be-attackers for a better chance at staying safe.
- Plan for the unexpected and practice “what-if” scenarios with your family.

Passport Fee Changes



New passport fees were published in the Federal Register on February 9, 2010. For more information, [click here](#). The new fees went into effect July 13, 2010.

The total charge for a first-time passport book for an adult,

including the application fee, security surcharge, and execution fee, has increased from \$100 to \$135.

The total charge for an adult passport book renewal, including the application fee and security surcharge, has increased from

\$75 to \$110.

The total charge for a minor’s (aged 16 and under) passport book, including the application fee, security surcharge, and execution fee has increased from \$85 to \$105.

Useful Links

U.S. Embassy Nairobi <http://nairobi.usembassy.gov/index.html>

Embassy Holiday List <http://nairobi.usembassy.gov/about-us/2010-holiday-schedule.html>

Register to vote absentee <http://www.fvap.gov>

ACS appointment <https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=NRB&appcode=1>

Warden Enrollment <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

Tax Information Citizens and Residents Abroad
<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/international/article/0,,id=97324,00.html>



Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA)

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U.S. citizens living in Kenya should report their child's birth abroad to the Embassy as soon as possible in order to establish an official record of the child's claim to U.S. citizenship. The official record will be the Consular Report of Birth of a Citizen of the United States of America - form FS-240 (CRBA's are often pronounced *Cribba's*)

The CRBA is a basic United States citizenship document.

A Consular Report of Birth Abroad can only be prepared at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate. It cannot be prepared if the child has been brought back into the United States, or, if the person is 18 years of age or older at the time the application is completed.

Birth Certificate Required: After the child is born, you will need to obtain the child's Birth Certificate. A CRBA will not be issued without this document.

CRBA Forms can be accessed on our web site or [click here](#).

To schedule a CRBA Appointment also visit our web sit or [click here](#).

Required Documents for a CRBA Appointment: **NOTE: All forms MUST be fully completed prior to your CRBA appointment.**

- Child's Birth Certificate;
- Mother/Father's Passports;
- Completed DS-2029;
- Completed DS-5507;
- Completed DS-11;
- SS - 5 Application for Social Security Card;
- Certificate of Naturalization if applicable;
- Marriage Certificate if applicable;
- Divorce Decree if applicable;
- 2 x Passport sized photographs of the child.

NOTE: The child needs to come to the Embassy with his primary care-givers (i.e.: both parents, mother and step-father, etc) the day that the CRBA application is submitted.

If one parent resides outside of Kenya there is no need for them to fly to Kenya just to submit the forms That parent may go to our web site or [click here](#), to fill in the forms and have them notarized in the U.S. or any other U.S. Embassy or

Consulate. When the forms are notarized, that parent must also present their ID to be copied and notarized. All original notarized forms, and an original notarized copy of the parents ID must be mailed to the parent residing in Kenya to present to the Embassy.

Please note that each CRBA application is adjudicated on a case-by-case basis. The officer may require additional information as needed to transmit citizenship to your child.

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From the end of January 2011, CRBA's will no longer be printed at posts, but a more secure document will be printed in the U.S. and sent to posts, just as passports are now. We hope you bear with us while we transition to this new system. Please check our web site periodically for news of when the new CRBA production will start.

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New Law makes Absentee Voting Easier for Overseas Americans

Congress recently enacted the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. This legislation amends existing laws regarding overseas voting in federal elections, and should make voting easier for Americans overseas.

New Procedures in Effect: Beginning with the various state and congressional elections in November 2010 and for all ensuing general, special, and primary elections, states will be required to mail ballots to out-of-country Americans at least 45 days prior to an election day for a federal office. This requirement may cause some states to select earlier primary dates, or to request waivers due to special circumstances. In addition to mailing ballots to overseas voters, the states will be required, at the voter's request, to provide registration forms, absentee ballot request forms, and blank ballots via fax or E-mail. However, each state's laws determine whether ballot requests or voted ballots can be returned via fax or E-mail. The new law prohibits states from rejecting marked ballots based on notarization, paper size, or paper weight requirements. The witnessing requirements of individual states remain in place.

Overseas Absentee Ballot Requests: Effective immediately, states will no longer be required by federal law to continue to mail election materials to overseas addresses for two complete general election cycles on the basis of a single ballot request. It will now be up

to each state to determine how long to continue to send out election materials before requiring overseas voters to submit new ballot requests. This change, sought by local election officials, should greatly decrease the volume of voting materials sent abroad to addresses where Americans may once have, but no longer reside.

State Department Recommendations: In light of these changes, the Department of State recommends that all U.S. voters residing abroad request absentee ballots from their local election officials at the start of each calendar year and whenever there is a change of address, change of E-mail address, or change of name, by completing and sending in a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). To locate information on your specific state's requirements and to obtain an on-line version of the FPCA, please visit www.fvap.gov. Voters may also pick up a hard copy of the FPCA from any U.S. Embassy or Consulate. FPCAs may be mailed to your local voting officials in the United States via international mail or from any U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Many states allow U.S. citizens overseas to submit the FPCA by E-mail or fax. The Department of State strongly encourages all U.S. overseas voters to provide E-mail addresses or fax numbers on their FPCAs to enable local election offi-

cials to transmit election materials in the fastest manner possible, which should then allow sufficient time for the return of completed ballots. For information regarding your state, please visit www.fvap.gov

Emergency Ballots: The Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) serves as an emergency ballot for the November general elections for federal offices, although some states also permit its use for elections for state and local officers. Beginning in January 2011, the new law allows use of the FWAB for primary, special, and runoff elections for federal offices. Voters who request an absentee ballot in advance of their state's ballot request deadline, but who fail to receive an official ballot from local election officials in time to vote, should complete the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot and send it back to local election officials in time for it to be counted. Access an on-line version of the FWAB at www.fvap.gov, or by [clicking here](#).





Reflections on Implementation of the New Constitution

Remarks by U.S. Ambassador Michael Ranneberger



The passage of the new constitution marked a turning point in

Kenya's history – the most important achievement since independence itself. Now the country is intensively focused on fully implementing the constitution.

Implementing the constitution according to its letter and spirit will be a major step forward in countering the culture of impunity, negative ethnicity, and pervasive poverty. Truly limiting executive power, expanding the oversight role of Parliament, and putting in place an independent judiciary will deter corruption and make elected and appointed officials

more responsive to the people. The opening up of the political system through expansion of Parliament and the establishment of devolved county authorities will mitigate against negative ethnicity. Finally, credible implementation of the constitution in a way which addresses these issues will greatly enhance Kenya's democratic stability, and this will in turn encourage more American and other foreign investment. The end result will be a more prosperous and democratic country which will advance the well-being of all Kenyans. [Click here](#) to read more.

Secretary Clinton's Remarks at U.N. Security Council Meeting on Sudan



Yesterday marked a milestone in the history of Sudan. Voters from Southern Sudan began lining up to register for the referendum by which they will

decide their own future. Holding this referendum, resolving the status of Abyei, and all of the conditions of the CPA represent the promise of self-determination made to the Sudanese people under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005. The United States believes that these are promises that must be kept. It is critical to peace and stability, not only for Sudan but also for the neighbors, some of whom are here today, and the rest of Africa represented by others, that the referendum for Southern Sudan be held peacefully and on time on January

9th. And regardless of the outcome, the will of the people must be respected by all parties in Sudan and around the world. [Click here](#) to read more.

This is a quarterly publication from the American Citizen Services Section in the U.S. Embassy, Nairobi.

Please contact
Kenya_ACS@state.gov with
any comments or suggestions.